

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TECHNICAL VIOLATOR PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The Iowa Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Corrections, is proposing a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program to be located in Knoxville on the VA campus. The facility will provide treatment for low risk, non-violent probation violators due to technical violations for substance abuse thereby reducing admissions to prison and addressing the public health concerns created by the substance-abusing behavior.

BACKGROUND

A study conducted at the Iowa Medical Classification Center determined that 80% of the offenders sentenced for 10 years or less have drug and/or alcohol problems. Approximately 45% of these offenders are found to require intensive treatment in a residential based treatment program. Alcohol continues to be the most commonly abused drug with methamphetamine and marijuana also being significant drugs of choice.

FACILITY

The facility will meet community standards for security, will be community based, and operated by a governing board under the direction of the Department of Public Health. The board will consist of representatives from the Judicial Districts, Judiciary, Substance Abuse, Department of Public Health, and Department of Corrections.

The Iowa Department of Public Health will hire 60 state FTE's. These state employees will be both professionals and para-professionals.

PROGRAM

This residential substance abuse treatment program modeled after a therapeutic community (TC) will serve 200 male and female offenders per year. Offenders referred to the program will participate in an intensive treatment program lasting up to 6 months. Upon successful completion of the program and the development of a continuing care plan for community based substance abuse treatment, the offender will be released back to community supervision.

TC programs are designed and structured to create an environment for social learning and change. The treatment environment is highly structured and strictly disciplined 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The client's behaviors, attitudes, values, and emotions are constantly monitored and corrected or reinforced as part of the daily regimen. The role of the program is to re-socialize offenders, teaching positive values and how to successfully live with their addictions.

Therapeutic groups, in addition to substance abuse curriculum are: anger, cognitive, money management, decision making skills, parenting, victim impact, relationships, and job seeking skills.